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Media and Information Literacy

Quarter 1 – Module 4:
Media and Information Sources

Lesson 1	# Media and Information Sources

In looking for any information, the main considerations are, *"What type of information is needed?"* and *"Where can these pieces of information be found?"* Acquiring the skill of finding reliable sources of information will help you discover and enhance more skills in 21st-century learning.

Media and Information Sources

In searching for information, one needs help in locating appropriate and reliable sources while also having access to them. There are three main sources of information: indigenous knowledge, libraries, and the Internet. In many instances, sources of information are also classified as primary, secondary, and tertiary.

A. Indigenous Knowledge

Figure 1: A group of Igorot pottery makers from Samoki, Mountain Province (c. 1910)
Courtesy to: https://www.flickr.com/photos/internetarchivebookimages/18246004349/

Indigenous knowledge is the distinctive knowledge kept to a specific group of people. *Local knowledge*, *folk knowledge*, *people's knowledge*, *traditional wisdom, or traditional science* are other terms used for it (Senanayak, 2006). Communities generate and transmit this knowledge in certain periods to be able to adjust to their agricultural, ecological, and socio-economic environments (Fernandez, 1994). Meanwhile, according to Brouwers (1993), indigenous knowledge is "generated through a systematic process of observing local conditions, experimenting with solutions, and readapting previously identified solutions to modified environmental, socio-economic and technological situations." It usually becomes the basis of a certain community for their daily life. Indigenous knowledge is transferred from one generation to another, either orally (oral tradition) or through cultural rituals. Oral traditions involve legends, folktales, epics, myths, and folk songs.

Dewalt (1994) identified certain features of indigenous knowledge that are highly relevant in conservation and sustainable growth:

- *Locally appropriate.* Indigenous knowledge signifies a way of life that has advanced with the local conditions.
- *Restraint in resource exploitation.* Production is for survival needs only; only those necessary for immediate survival are taken from the environment.
- *Diversified production systems.* There is no abuse of resources; various strategies are utilized to avoid risks.

- *Respect for nature.* A 'conservation ethic' often exists. Here, the land is treated as sacred.
- *Human dependence on nature for survival.* All species are interrelated; hence, one affects the other.
- *Flexibility.* Indigenous knowledge means adapting to new circumstances and being open to outside knowledge.
- *Social responsibility.* There are strong family and community ties, and with them, feelings of obligation and responsibility to preserve the land for future generations.

B. Library

As defined in *Cambridge Dictionary*, A library is "a building, room, or organization that has a collection, especially of books, music, and information that can be accessed by computer for people to read, use, or borrow."

Aside from books and journals, libraries also house advanced e-resources. Most libraries offer the following services:

- *User services* function in linking people to the information they are looking for.
- *Technical services* function in gathering, cataloging, and preparing library materials.
- *Computer services* function in maintaining databases, software programming, web page design, and computer hardware maintenance in the library.
- *Administrative services* function in managing the library and services, conveying contracts with sellers, supervising library employees, and preparing budgets.

Libraries are classified as academic, public, school, and special.
- *Academic libraries* serve colleges and universities.
- *Public libraries* serve cities and towns of all types.
- *School libraries* serve students from Kindergarten to Grade 12.
- *Special libraries* are located in specific environments (e.g., hospitals, corporations, museums, military, private business).

C. Internet

As defined in the *Oxford Dictionary,* the Internet is "a global computer network providing a variety of information and communication facilities, consisting of interconnected networks using standardized communication protocols."

Essays, UK (2018) describes the *internet* as a "network of networks" consisting of millions of smaller domestic, academic, business, and government networks. Internet is also defined as the "worldwide publicly accessible network of interconnected computer networks that transmit data by packet switching using the standard Internet Protocol (IP)" (*Merriam Dictionary*). It transmits information stored in files or documents on one computer to another computer. It transfers together several information and services, such as file transfer, electronic mail, interlinked web pages, online chat, and other documents of the World Wide Web. While it is common to hear people saying they found the "information on the Internet," it is technically more correct to say one finds information "through" or "using" the Internet.

Other Classifications of Information Sources

A. Primary Sources of Information:

Primary sources refer to *"original materials."* These are materials from a certain period of time that have not been filtered, modified through analysis, interpretation, or evaluation. Also, primary sources are the bases of other researches. They are commonly the raw products of written texts (print or electronic format). Hence, they show original thinking, present a discovery, or impart new information.

The following are examples of primary sources of information:

Artifact. It refers to something made or created by humans, such as a tool or a work of art, especially an object of archaeological interest.

Figure 2: 19th century guidon holder from the Philippines, wood with traces of gesso, HAAI
Source:
https://commons.wikimedia.org/

Diary. It is a record with distinct entries organized by date reporting on daily activities or other periods. It can be personal, which may include a person's experiences, thoughts, and/or feelings.

Figure 3: This is the last entry from William Viers Bouic's (my Great Great Grandfather) law school diary
Source:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/bdorf man/15846725

Patent. This is the granting of a right to an inventor by a sovereign authority. This grant affords the inventor exclusive rights to the patented process, design, or invention for a designated period in exchange for a comprehensive disclosure of the invention.

Figure 4: Patent
Source:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Pat ents.jpg

Audio/ video recording.

Figure 5: Camera recording
Source: https://www.pikist.com/free-photo-vvwlt

Other examples of primary sources include e-mails, interviews, journal articles, letters, minutes of meetings, conferences and symposia, newspaper articles, original documents (e.g., birth certificate, marriage certificate), photographs, records of organizations, research survey results, speeches, works of art, literature, architecture, and music, and websites.

B. Secondary Sources of Information:

Compared to primary sources, secondary sources are not easily defined. Generally, written after an original product, they usually aim to give reflection or analysis. In short, they are analyses, interpretations, and evaluations of primary sources. Secondary sources are not proof, but rather explanation on and discussion of evidence. Secondary sources may be classified as index type, survey type, and reference type.

- ***Indexes*** are typically found as one or more individual volumes at the end of a set. Examples are index, bibliography, indexing periodicals, and abstracting periodicals.
- ***Survey type*** involves the product of examination or description of someone or something. Examples are reviews, treatises, and monographs.
- The ***reference type*** consists of materials collected from others' works such as encyclopedia, dictionary, handbook, manual and critical tables.

C. Tertiary Sources of information:

Tertiary sources are commonly confused with secondary sources. Tertiary sources involve information that collects and organizes primary and secondary sources. Tertiary sources include bibliographies of bibliographies, directories and yearbooks, guides to literature, and lists of research in progress.